105. Some suggestions for the improvement of Ayurveda.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) said that, since the benefit of the western system of medicine was available only to a very small fraction of the population, the major portion of the people were receiving medical relief under the indigenous systems of medicine. The Ayurvedic system of treatment was cheaper, more popular and specially suited to certain diseases. Government were spending much more for allopathic institutions than for those of Ayurveda. The Member said that much improvement in the indigenous system had been made recently, but he was of opinion that the reform of the department did not come up to public expectation. He then made the following suggestions for the immediate consideration of Government. Though the people were grateful to Government for raising the minimum grant to Vaidyasalas from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15, he suggested that it was desirable to increase that amount still further. The reduction of grant-in-aid Vidyasalas from 80 to 72 was regrettable and he prayed that the Vaidyasalas at Eraniel, Suchindram, Ranni and Chengannur, recently abolished might be restored. Under the recent G. O. on the subject the maximum number of Vaidyasalas fixed was 120 and it was stated that that maximum was to be reached in 10 years. The Member requested that Vaidyasalas might be established at the rate of 10 every year, the 8 institutions abolished being brought into existence immediately. It was desirable that all the stations for the 120 Vaidyasalas should be decided in adavance with a view to the necessary buildings being put up by those students of the Ayurvedic College who might pass and who might be inclined to open them in those localities. There should be more Visha Vaidyasalas than at present. Vaidyans in charge of grant-in-aid institutions should be given training in the Ayurvedic College, Trivandrum, in the use of the thermometre, the stethoscope, preparation of temperature charts, prescription of diet, etc. They should also be given a course of lectures in hygiene and should be well-versed in the performance of minor operations.

The Member then urged on the Government the need for the publication of unpublished manuscripts on Ayurveda and suggested the creation of a committee of competent gentlemen for the purpose. The next request of the Member was that an Ayurvedic magazine should be run by the department with a view to popularise the system and also enlighten the general public. An Ayurveda hospital should be opened in each of the District head-quarters with a pharmacy attached to each and the pay of the Vaidyans in charge of those institutions which should be attractive might be fixed at about Rs. 100. If it was not possible to have a pharmacy, arrangements should be made for the supply to the District hospitals of drugs from the central pharmacy at Trivandrum which, however, required considerable improvements, such as the introduction of time-saving and labour-saving machinery. Patent medicines should be prepared there, a price list and the catalogue of medicines published, and medicines sold through private agencies on the lines of the Andhra Ayurvedic Pharmacy.

The number of Ayurveda Patasalas should be increased and the grants to the existing ones should be enhanced. A grant should be given to the Airur Patasala and the schools at Ettumanur and Changankulangara should be given larger amounts as grants. English-knowing students should be encouraged to join those Patasalas. Four graduates and a few English School Leaving Certificate holders should be trained in the Ayurveda College.

The present botanical gardens should be shifted to a better place and rare medicinal plants cultivated there.

A depōt should be opened for selling good medicinal herbs.

106. Improvements to the Department of Ayurveda by the establishm[illegible]ment Ayurveda hospitals and dispensaries in important towns.

Mr. V.R. Kochunni Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) after offering[illegible]d, same thanks to the Government for the patronage given to the Ayurverda syst[illegible]d men[illegible] to this sytem of treatment was assuredly more efficacious than the allopathic [illegible] to justify pathic system or even the *unani* system of treatment which was in vo[illegible]

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly